



SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN



Area of rock guard, ten inches wide and ten feet long-weighing approximately 100 pounds.

On Saturday, February 14, 2004, a contract welder received serious injuries in an accident that occurred while he was replacing a metal rock guard on a 785C Caterpillar rock hauler. The victim, who was standing on a ladder approximately 10 feet above the ground, was using an oxyacetylene torch to cut the weld that secured the guard to the truck. He had cut most of the old weld from the metal guard but had intentionally left a couple places “spot welded” to prevent the guard from prematurely falling. The victim planned to cut the majority of the weld while leaving the “spot welded” locations and then finish removing the guard by breaking the spot welds with a 992C loader bucket. While not visible and unknown to the victim, the “spot welds” were broken at the weld-frame junction. The rock guard broke loose and struck the victim in the face causing lacerations. The victim jumped from the ladder onto the ground and sustained a broken left leg.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- When removing an object from elevated locations, the object should be secured to prevent it from falling accidentally.
- Equipment components scheduled for repairs or replacement should be thoroughly examined, prior to working a such equipment, for stability and potential of falling.

ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM